



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



PRIORITY DOCUMENT
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH
RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

RECEIVED NPI08QQ
22 JAN 2004
WIPO PCT

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subject the company to certain additional company law rules.

Signed

R. Mahoney

Dated 3 November 2003

Best Available Copy



1
06NOV02 E761272-1 C91156
P01/7700 0.00-0225822.6

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form)

THE PATENT OFFICE
E

- 6 NOV 2002

NEWPORT

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

1. Your reference

TM | 2000 | COOP | 2

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0225822.6

06 NOV 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (*underline all surnames*)

NIKE LAND SECURITIES LTD
JUBILEE HOUSE
JOHN NIKE WAY
BRACKNELL
RG12 8TN

06 NOV 2002

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

UNITED KINGDOM

4. Title of the invention

A DRY SKI SLOPE SURFACE

5. Name of your agent (*if you have one*)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom
to which all correspondence should be sent
(*including the postcode*)

Patents ADP number (*if you know it*)

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (*if you know it*) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(*if you know it*)

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

N/A

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)

N/A

8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:

- a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
- b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
- c) any named applicant is a corporate body.

See note (d)

YES

Best Available Copy

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description

2
1
1
2 + 2

Claim(s)

Abstract

Drawing(s)

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents
(Please specify)

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature

Date

10/11/02

11. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

L. J. NIKE
01344 789117

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- a) If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.
- b) Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- c) If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- d) If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- e) Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- f) For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

A DRY SKI SLOPE SURFACE

This invention relates to a two-part looped dry ski slope surface.

Dry ski slope surfaces are in use throughout Great Britain, Europe and other parts of the world. The surfaces vary but all provide the means for the sport of skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing where snowfalls are scarce or insufficient to allow for snow-sports on a natural surface. For many years research has been carried out to find a surface that will meet the HSO guidance for safety. The invention is a dry ski slope surface that safeguards against harm to a faller. The structure of the invention provides a solution to the causes of injuries that occur from the present dry ski slope surfaces. It is a blanket surface without openings, sharp filament ends, wire ties or metal backing forming a part of the construction. The invention also flexes to the contours of the ground providing a softening through the looped surface and a cushioning through the base structure.

The object of this invention is to provide a safe environmentally friendly skiing surface.

According to the present invention there is provided a complete dry ski slope surface configuration comprising a looped filament skiing blanket that can be attached to or detached from a draining and cushioning flexible base that is fixed to the ground or structure.

The specific embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 shows a sectional view of the detachable looped filament skiing blanket surface attached to the draining and cushioning flexible base forming the complete structure.

Figure 2 shows the separation of the detachable looped skiing blanket from the draining and cushioning flexible base.

Figure 3 illustrates the abutting of the segments of the detachable looped skiing blanket. One edge of a segment abuts and overlays the selvedge of another segment. The underside meeting edge of the segment blanket can be attached to or detached from the meeting selvedge.

Figure 4 shows the grid laying system and the method for the replacement of a section of worn surface area.

Figure 5 illustrates an exploded view of the various elements used in the manufacture of the complete system for the dry ski slope surface invention.

Referring to the drawings the complete skiing surface 1 comprises a detachable looped skiing blanket 2 and a base material 3 fastened together with a loop and hook system 4. The base 3 is secured to the ground by fixing pins at varying centres. The manufactured segments of the detachable looped filament blanket 2 are then attached to form a whole surface 1 for a dry ski slope.

In order to lay the construction as shown in Fig 1. the base drainage material 3 is first placed on the ground of the formed slope. The segments of the detachable looped filament skiing blanket 2 are then overlaid.

Fig 2. shows how the detachable looped filament skiing blanket 2 can be separated from the base drainage material 3 for the replacement of worn surface areas. The blanket 2 can be cut to varying sizes for patching areas that need attention due to wear and tear, as illustrated in Fig 4. The base drainage material 3 does not need to be removed or replaced during this routine maintenance for the renewal of the worn surface.

Fig 3. illustrates the abutting of the segments of looped filament skiing blanket and the overlapping of the selvedge. The loop and hook system 4 secures the segments together to form a continuous dry ski slope surface.

CLAIMS

1. A complete dry ski slope surface configuration comprising a looped filament skiing blanket that can be attached to or detached from a draining and cushioning flexible base that is fixed to the ground or structure.
2. A detachable skiing blanket as claimed in Claim 1 where a looping system provides the ski-ability.
3. A detachable skiing blanket as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 2 where loops stitched through a felt fabric attributes moisture retention.
4. A detachable skiing blanket as claimed in Claim 2 and Claim 3 where a loop and hook system is provided for joining and securing the abutting and overlaying segments.
5. A detachable skiing blanket as claimed in Claim 4 where a loop and hook system is provided to fasten the blanket to the base material.
6. A dry ski slope surface as claimed in any preceding claims wherein the base material is provided and secured with fixing pins before the attachment of the skiing blanket.
7. A dry ski slope surface substantially described herein with reference to Figures 1 – 5 of the accompanying drawings.

ABSTRACT
A DRY SKI SLOPE SURFACE

A dry ski slope surface 1 comprises of a looped blanket 2 attached to a flexible cushioning and draining base 3. The loops and felt backing cloth cause a moisture retention as well as providing for the edging control of the skis and snowboards whilst attributing slide. The looped blanket 2 is detachable from the cushioning and draining flexible base 3. The two layers affording the ski-able surface 2 and flexible base 3 are attached to each other by using a loop and hook 4 method of fastening. The looped blanket 2 is replaceable to any size for the renewing of worn areas through a peeling away (Fig 2) and cutting process. The base layer 3 remains in place during the renewing of the looped skiing blanket 2. The whole is the dry ski slope surface.

1/2

Fig 1

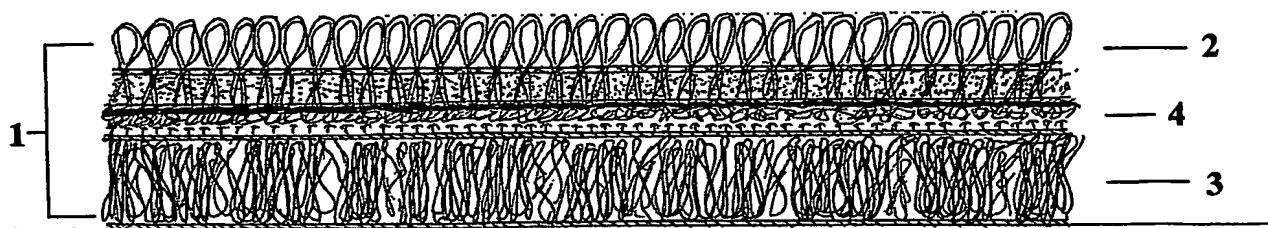


Fig 2

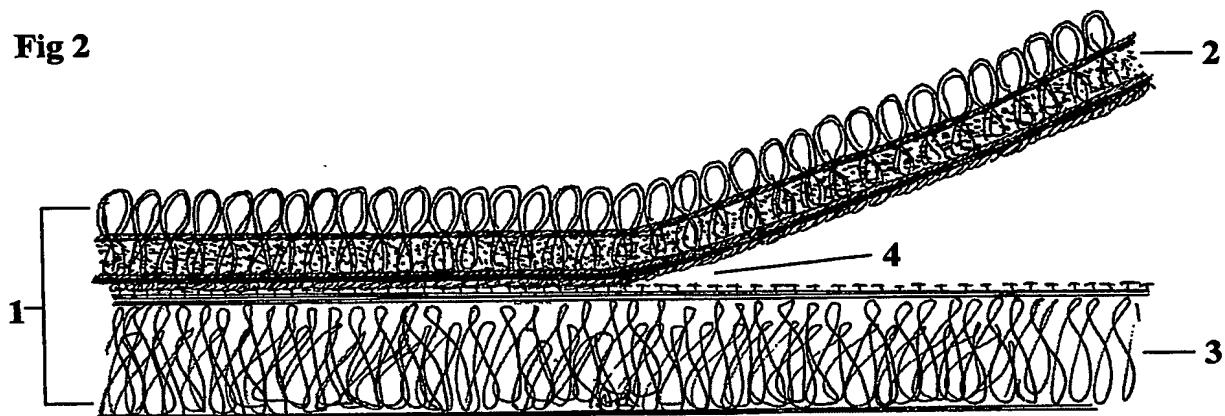
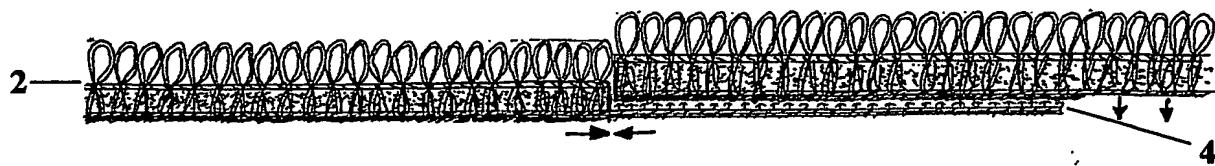


Fig 3



Best Available Copy

Fig 4

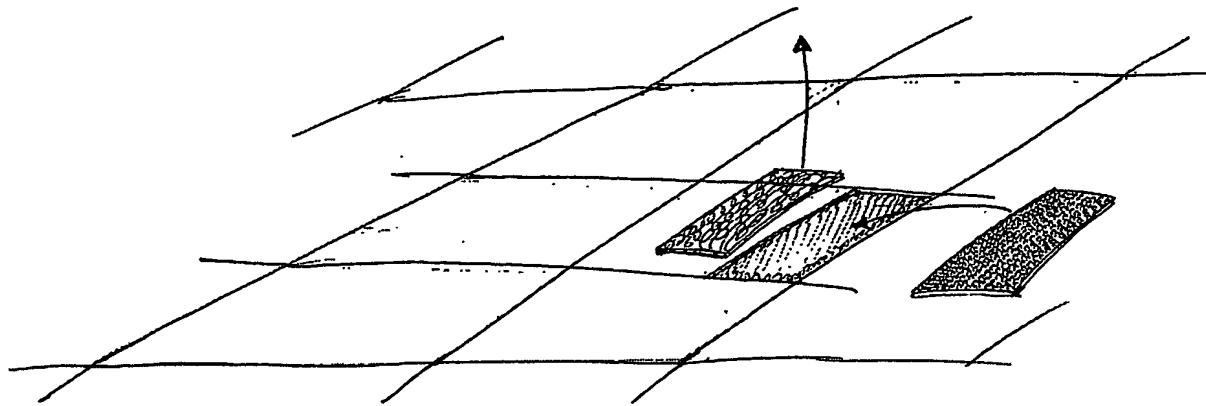
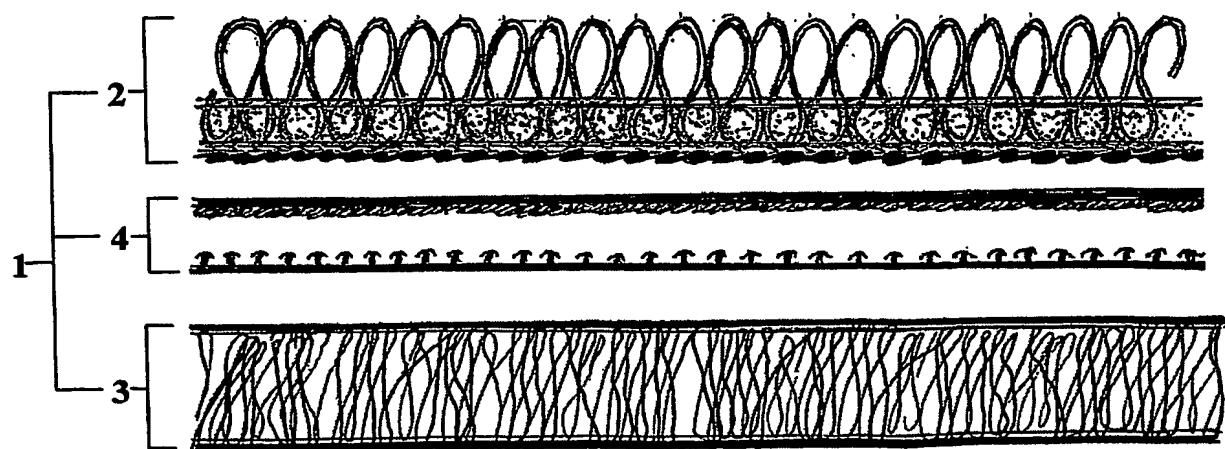


Fig 5



Best Available Copy